

Bishop C.H. Mason, Founder 1907

THE WHOLE TRUTH

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

"The law of truth was in his mouth and iniquity was not found in his mouth." Mat. 2:6. "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32.

VOLUME XXX, NO. I

C.O.G.I.C. HEADQUARTERS, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

JANUARY, 1993

PRESIDING BISHOP TO ADDRESS PASTORS AND ELDERS



Hampton, Virginia will be the site of the soon to come General Pastors and Elders Conference. March 2, 1993 will witness the beginning of a new era in the chapter of this clergy group. Presiding Bishop Louis Henry Ford has been invited by newly elected chairman, Elder Solomon Williams of St. Louis, Missouri, to deliver the banquet address. Pastors and elders from all around the church world will be attending, and will engage in dialogue, ministry skills, building programs and fellowship. All of these pursuits will be ministry enhancing and a benefit to the clergy responsible for ministry to the saints.

Elder Williams is directing his very first conference. His conference committee selected the theme "Reaching A Troubled World Through Anointed Preaching." Elder Williams is attempting to provide an outstanding and memorable agenda of activities, and thereby make the conference potentially one of the greatest events on the COGIC calendar. In Virginia he has the support of area bishops, Bishop L.E Willis, Bishop S.L. Green and Bishop Ted Thomas. The Virginian hospitality is famous, and of course, add a mixture of the saint's love and one will be assured of a fine time.

The beautiful Hampton Holiday Inn has been selected as the headquarters hotel and a flat rate of \$50.00 plus tax is being offered per night. To make credit card reservations only call 1-800-842-

9370. If you plan to stay in another facility please write to: Chief Registrar - P.O. Box 44131 - Chicago, IL 60644 and send first nights deposit. The pre- registration for the conference itself is only \$125.00 and this includes admission to all conference activities, materials packages and banquet ticket. If one registers on site during the conference the fee is \$145.00.

Some of the topics to be presented include: Economic Development, Church Growth, Worship Design, Approaches to Biblical Interpretation, Homeletics, Clinical Pastoral Education, Homosexuality and the AIDS Crisis, Sexual Harassment in the Work Place, The Legal Aspects of Church Organizations, Females In The Ministry: Biblical & Societal (Pro & Con) and The District.

Elder Williams encourages all clergy to attend this ministry challenging event. Bring the First Lady and enjoy this period of fellowship among peers. The conference is just the break needed to maintain a positive direction for the new year. Elder Williams is aware the conference was a mid summer event but the schedule was altered due to the progressive changes made in the national church calendar. Hopefully, the clergy of the Church will see the great benefit in store and place the conference clergy on their list of important things to do.

1993 A Year of Promise

The past year is gone in memory and the first few days of the new year are being experienced. It is time to announce the calendar of events for 1993. This year the Church Of God In Christ will convene ten different times for national meetings. The Church has an opportunity to impact several areas of the country with our spirituality, ministry and personality. The coming and going should make the respective places we conduct our meeting far different and better. The calendar is going to start off in January with the Annual Bishop's Conference in Dallas, Texas. The bishops of the Church Of God In Christ were scheduled to meet at the time which corresponds to the inauguration of President Elect Bill Clinton. Our entire national leadership has been invited to attend the inauguration. It was announced the conference dates have been changed. The new dates of the conference are January 26 - 28, 1993.

The Pastor's and Elder's Conference will meet in Hampton, Virginia, March 2 - 5, 1993. This will be the council's first official meeting under its newly elected leadership team. The Elder Solomon Williams of St. Louis is hoping to see hundreds of pastors and elders in Hampton. The council of clergy is quickly taking shape as a main stay for projecting the realities of ministries, fellowship and meeting the needs of Church Of God In Christ clergy and their wives. There is every indication the Hampton meeting will provide some timely and significant seminars. The March date is different from the usual mid



International Sunday School Superintendent, Elder Jerry Macklin rallies troops.

Summer time, as the presiding officer, Bishop Ford moved the conference to better manage the Summer auxiliary schedule.

Annual Spring Call Meeting is scheduled for Memphis, Tennessee, April 13 - 15, 1993. Again the saints will gather and bring financial reports for the conducting of the world wide ministries of the organization. Further word will be forth coming as the Spring meeting is the General Assembly's time to conduct its heavy business. Chairman, Dr. Frank Ellis and officials anticipate another smooth session. The organization is

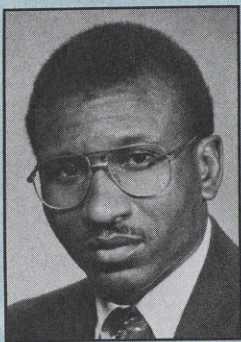
currently enjoying peace and high productivity. Presiding Bishop Ford and the General Board are doing a fine job of making the Church a powerful spiritual tool in the world today.

The International Women's Conference will convene in Nashville, Tennessee. Mother Mattie McGlothen was inspiring to the entire congregation of saints during the past Women's Day during the Holy Convocation. Nashville, a convention city is being prepared to receive the ladies of the Church. Music City USA will roll out the red carpet. Women from around the country will

Continued on page 7

EDITORIAL 1993 — HOW DO YOU SEE IT?

by Dr. David Hall



Dr. David Hall

After the celebrating is finished people must get about the business of living this year to a successful completion. God has allowed us to stand and peer at the possibilities of a new year. Surely, we have never witnessed so much potential and so much dread at the same time.

A new year offers the individual a certainty of ups and downs, twists and turns, and the abiding question of how one will make it? But then, the saints have a faith good for securing our way to success in spite of the unknown. This faith and securing one's footing is the Spirit of God working within the believer. Though one may not see the way in its entirety, one is yet assured that God will provide direction. The chief map is the word of the Lord and it guides our every step.

The Church Of God In Christ has a mandate to provide the vital Pentecostal message this world so clearly needs. We carry within us the great empowerment that Jesus promised would be the guide and keeper of the saints. Therefore, as we encounter a new year the saints are aware the same old problems still exist. Problems of poverty, crime, wars, philosophical wars of every description,

shifting morals and a general loss of focus in relation to meaningful values, remain the source of great concern. Still, God has promised to save the willing person and continue loving the sinner. God provided evidence that he is in control and was directing our paths nearly two thousand years ago on calvary. 2 Peter 3:9 stated, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." Upon this statement one should be confident that God is working to make our efforts through his Spirit effective. We shall witness both struggles and victories of the coming year.

Possibly we should make an account of the means provided the Church Of God In Christ to assure our success. First, the COGIC is a basic Bible believing Church. Second, the Church is Spirit driven and much on fire for the Lord. Third, the Church is composed of more than 12,000 local congregations in America and hundreds more around the world. Fourth, our concerns are well defined and documented and God is equal to the task.

All previously mentioned statements lead me to one conclusion; it does not matter how I see the year ahead. The year ahead is in the hands of the Lord. Each of us will live the year as it comes trusting that every action or reaction put forth will be in the will of God. I see 1993 as another opportunity to serve the Lord!

ITC SELECTS NEW YORK EXECUTIVE TO HEAD ITS NEW INSTITUTE OF CHURCH ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

The Institute of Church Administration and Management of Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) has hired Rev. Calvin O. Pressley as its executive director. Rev. Pressley comes to ITC from the New York City Mission Society where he served as its executive director for 14 years.

The ITC Institute of Church Administration and Management, funded by a grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., will provide specialized training and experiences for clergy, denominational executives, staff personnel, theological students and lay leaders in helping them achieve effective leadership in administration/management in the life and ministry of the churches they serve.

Several programs providing professional certification in church administration and management already exist elsewhere, but none which are sensitive and responsive to the particular needs of the Black churches and their leadership. The Institute is ITC's ongoing commitment to provide the highest calibre of clergy and lay leadership for the Black church.

Rev. Pressley brings a wealth of leadership and management skills to the Institute. He is an ordained United Methodist minister and has served several churches in New York City. At the Church of the Open Door, the only Protestant Church in a multi-ethnic community of 28,000 people, Rev. Pressley instituted a summer work camp to the Dominican Republic, a college scholarship program and the Educational Community Forum that provided the catalyst for the integration of two public schools.

In the area of management, Rev. Pressley has held the position of executive director of several organizations. At the Opportunities Center of New York, he administered this \$6.7 million dollar employment and training program. Under his leadership, over 10,000 people were trained and placed in employment within the corporate community. In his most recent position at New York City Mission Society, Rev. Pressley provided

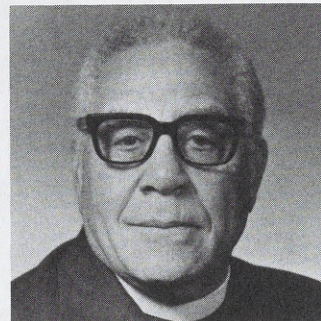
guidance to one of New York City's oldest charities whose annual expenditures totaled nearly \$4 million dollars.

In 1989, New York Governor Marion M. Cuomo appointed Rev. Pressley to the Board of Trustees of the City University of New York, and urban university with 200,000 students. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Center of New York City Affairs New School for Social Research, Harlem Urban Development Corporation, the New York City Task Force on Human Services and the New York State Advisory Council of Employment and Unemployment Insurance.

Rev. Pressley is a graduate of Drake University and The Theological School at Drew University where he received the Master of Divinity of degree. He begins his duties on November 1.

ITC is a graduate, professional school of the theology comprised of six constituent seminaries, each with a different denominational affiliation. It is one of fine UNCF schools within the Atlanta University Center complex.

Office
of the
Presiding Bishop



Dear Saints:

I greet you in the Name of our Blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus!

It is my prayer that you are enjoying God's blessings and giving Him praise for allowing us to enter another year. We enjoyed so many successes last year and we take none for granted, rather we give God all of the glory and praise for every victory.

I want to again thank you for your generous support of the Lord's work in 1992, and I ask you to give that same kind of support in 1993. There is yet a great need for the kind of ministry God has given to the Church Of God In Christ and I want your assurance that I can count on you.

This is the year that we expect to complete the renovation of all buildings on the Saints Academy and College campus in Lexington, open the Mother Mattie McGlothen Home of Love and Hope Shelter and expand some of our other ministries of the Church. There are literally thousands of souls that depend on our help on a day to day basis, and I know you do not want to let any of these men, women and children down.

During our 85th Holy Convocation there were many saints who came forward to make a pledge of support for the ministries, to date we have received only a few of those pledges. I would appreciate it very much if those persons who have not yet sent in that pledge would do so as soon as possible. It would be a blessing to our work and also to you.

Finally, saints, as we go forward this year in the Power of the Holy Ghost, let us lean heavily on the Lord and trust Him to bring to pass all that His Word has promised us. May we pray one for the other and the salvation of our youth.

In the power of the Holy Ghost

L.H. Ford
Presiding Bishop
Church Of God In Christ

THE WHOLE TRUTH

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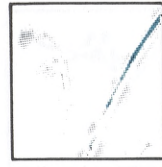
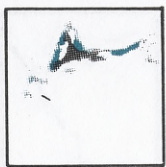
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A GREATER DIMENSION AND NEW HORIZON

September 20, 1991, Elder Vernon Richardson was appointed the prelate of the Nebraska Jurisdiction. For more than a quarter of a century the state was partitioned into eastern and western jurisdictions. The strange and wondrous move of God called one of our prelates home and the other became incapacitated. This chain of events caused the Church to deem it necessary to make a foundational change. At that time, new Presiding Bishop L.H. Ford decided to elevate a son of the state and seasoned pastor to the position of prelate, and unify the state into one jurisdiction. Elder Richardson was appointed prelate with many voices of praise and ovation from an assembled delegation.

Bishop Richardson humbly accepted the appointment and received the blessing from general board members, Bishops Anderson and Brooks, who served for six months during the interim period. Bishop Ford heard their recommendation as the best for the jurisdiction. Bishop Richardson has been preaching and pastoring in the Grand Old Church Of God In Christ for more than fifty years, and personally had been ministered to by our founder, Bishop C.H. Mason. Though senior in years, he is a man with a vision and a mission.

On February 29, 1992, an elegant inaugural dinner was given in honor of Bishop Richardson. The attendance was great as well wishers and friends came from many areas of the country. Bishop L.H. Ford delivered the evening address that blessed every receptive heart. He told the saints of Nebraska to make progress and lift up Jesus. The entire affair was powerful and spiritual.

Recently, during the 85th Holy Convocation, Bishop Richardson preached. It was his opportunity to tell the unique story of the praying hands. He wore his robe which has the praying hands and the name "JESUS" spelled out atop the fingers. In his own time and style, the bishop upset the house with a message he entitled, "Get Excited." He told the saints he would make a video presentation his message. It proved to be a different and inspiring message!

Missionary Alice Woods
Faith Temple COGIC
Omaha, Nebraska

FIVE NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS FOR ALL SAINTS

At the beginning of each new year, most of us sit down and write our resolutions pertaining to what we'd like to accomplish in the upcoming year. Many saints make resolutions, but fail to include God in their goal planning. Other saints make resolutions which pertain to serving the local church, but fail to evaluate their personal salvation and its needs. For example, we may resolve to work wholeheartedly with the usher board. There is nothing wrong with working with the usher board, but in this day and time of spiritual warfare, we need to focus on increasing our inner spiritual selves. Below are five resolutions which every saint should consider as New Year Resolutions for 1992.

1. **RESOLVE TO BECOME A FERVENT PRAYER WARRIOR**- Prayer is our primary source of communications with God. Yet, many of us spend more time serving the local church, than we do in our prayer closets. We have neglected Jesus' request that we pray continuously. In II Thessalonians 5:17, the scripture tells us to pray without ceasing. In James 5:16, the scripture tells us to pray fervently. Resolve to set aside thirty to sixty minutes each morning in prayer. In Mark 1:35, the scripture tells us that Jesus would rise early and depart to a place of solitude to pray. Let this be an example of how we conduct our prayer lives.

2. **RESOLVE TO STUDY THE WORD** - How can you witness to someone if you do not know the Word? How can you live an effective Christian life, if you are unaware of the many request that God has for your life? Resolve to study the Word. In II Timothy 2:15, the scripture tells us to study to show ourselves approved. Study does not mean reading a one page devotion and ending it in prayer. The art of studying the Word means choosing topics or passages for in depth knowledge or understanding. Seeking to know the purpose of a particular parable is a significant study. Set aside a time daily (preferably following prayer) when you can sit down and study God's word in depth. Let this be uninterrupted time with God. Begin each study session with prayer asking God to get you knowledge, understanding and revelation.

3. **RESOLVE TO FAST** - The Church Of God In Christ inaugurated Tuesdays and Fridays as National fasting days for our Church. However,

there are many of us who barely fast once a month. Fasting is a requirement for all saints. Jesus gave us specific instructions on how we should fast (Matthew 6:16). Remember to be specific in what you fast for. Remain prayerful and in the Word through out your fast.

4. **RESOLVE TO WIN SOULS FOR CHRIST** - In Matthew 19:18, Jesus says "Go ye therefore and teach all nations..." Then in James 5:20, the scriptures reads "...he which converted the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death and shall hide a multitude of sins." Our mission as ambassadors for Christ is to win souls. Make sure your life is clean in witnessing to others. Our light shines and exemplifies Christ.

Our mission as ambassadors for Christ is to win souls.

Many times, loved ones do not listen to saints because the saint's life does not project one of holiness.

5. **RESOLVE TO BE ARMED WITH THE TRUTH** - Ephesians 6:11 says "...put on the whole armour of God." As time draws nearer to Christ's return, saints are finding themselves in a state of spiritual warfare. Our fight is not against the unsaved man or human enemy, but against powers and principalities (Ephesians 6:12). Resolve to arm yourself with the weapon of Truth, the breastplate of Righteousness, the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of Salvation and the Sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:14-16).

Can you imagine what state our Church, nation and people would be in if saints truly committed themselves to the five named resolutions? 1993 is the year to make a change for Jesus. So organize your lifestyle and goals to make a tremendous change in yourself and the work you do for the Lord.

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Gail Stowers
Faith Temple Church of God In Christ
East Point, GA

THE OBITUARY

Bishop John Howard Dell was born in Washington County, Georgia on September 29, 1902. He was the eldest son of six children (all of whom preceded him in death) born to Mr. Henry Dell and Mrs. Maggie Dell.

Bishop Dell began preaching and spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ at the age of sixteen. He was appointed Father of Missions by his local church and prayed for the sick and shut in. At eighteen years, he preached out his first congregation in Garden, Georgia. During his life time, Bishop Dell founded four other churches: Crisp Street Church, Macon Georgia; First Church Of God In Christ, Soperton, Georgia; First Church Of God In Christ, Lyons, Georgia and Christ Temple Church Of God In Christ, Atlanta, Georgia. He also started missions in Danville, Terry Tom, Alley, and Udila, Georgia.

On January 8, 1922, Bishop Dell was united in holy matrimony to Della Hunter whose union to her ended at her demise. To this union seven children were born. At the time of his death he was married to the lovely Jean Lewis Dell.

Bishop Dell was ordained an elder in the Church Of God In Christ on August 20, 1924. In 1927, he was appointed to the office of District Superintendent. As Superintendent he presided over the First Augusta, Cordele and Moultrie Districts. He served as Jurisdictional Chairman (1934-1937) and Corresponding Secretary (1940-1947) for the State of Georgia.



Bishop John Howard Dell

Bishop Dell served as secretary for the National Council of Elders from 1946-1972. On April 17, 1948, he was appointed Georgia's Overseer by the late Bishop Charles H. Mason. October 15, 1954, Bishop Mason consecrated him to the sacred office of bishop.

As a result of untiring effort and dedication, Northern Georgia is the only jurisdiction in Georgia with a headquarters that was purchased and paid for by the saints. Bishop Dell has established a jurisdictional scholarship fund, retirement fund, pension fund for deceased

pastor's wives, and the J. Howard Dell Fine Arts Department. Bishop Dell was instrumental in establishing a ministerial alliance in Albany, Georgia and served as its first president. He served as a member of the Board of Directors at Saints Junior College and as a member of the Board of Trustees at C.H. Mason Seminary. He received a Honorary LLD Degree from Saints Junior College.

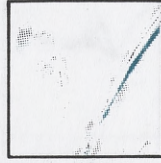
Bishop Dell was a pioneer in mass media ministries. He was one of the first black ministers in Georgia to have a radio ministry and the first to preach from a remote radio site in Macon and Columbus, Georgia. He was the first black minister to have a television ministry in Albany, Georgia and one of the first blacks to telecast Sunday services in Atlanta, Georgia.

Bishop Dell served the Church Of God In Christ for seventy- three (73) years. He was a devoted family man and churchman who dedicated his entire life to spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. No one would have thought that a young boy from rural Washington County, Georgia, would someday become one of the Great bishops of the Church Of God In Christ.

He leaves to cherish fond and loving memories his wife, Mother Jean Lewis Dell; six children, Waletha Johnson, Sarah Lee Spence, Helen Dell McLendon, John Henry Dell, Nathan Dell; nine grand children; seven great-grand children; nieces; nephews; and a host of other relatives and friends to include a devoted church family, Christ Temple Church of God In Christ, Atlanta, Georgia and Northern Georgia Jurisdiction.



THE WHOLE TRUTH



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

In reference to the August '92 issue of The Whole Truth, there was one item I found disturbing. It was the article entitled, "The Genesis Account." I whole-heartly agree with Rev. Shirley that Bible study without the Holy Ghost is destined to be fruitless. However, he choose to credit the Holy Ghost with using hermeneutic method of allegory comparing the creation of Genesis with the new birth.

These are two entirely different events. The similarity is that God did the work. Creation was accomplished with no material. That is why the word in Hebrew, bara, is used in the Genesis account of creation. It means to create from nothing. However in the salvation process God has a sinner to make into a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).

The allegory method has throughout history tried to find 'hidden' meanings beneath what is being said. The Bible however is to be interpreted in normal language. That is to say if we are reading a prophecy it should be interpreted as a prophecy not as a parable, or a figure of speech, or a narrative.

It is my prayer that the author or the author of the article was only drawing an illustration and not saying that the Holy Ghost showed him this is how God intended the interpretation. And Dr. Hall, I pray that you will seek to feed us, your readers, more hermeneutically sound articles. Yes, and as an editor I know what you might say - put my pen where my mouth is. You'll be hearing from me.

Concerned,
Elder Jeremy Taylor Jones
Wheaton, IL

THE EDITOR RESPONDS...

Dear Elder Jones;

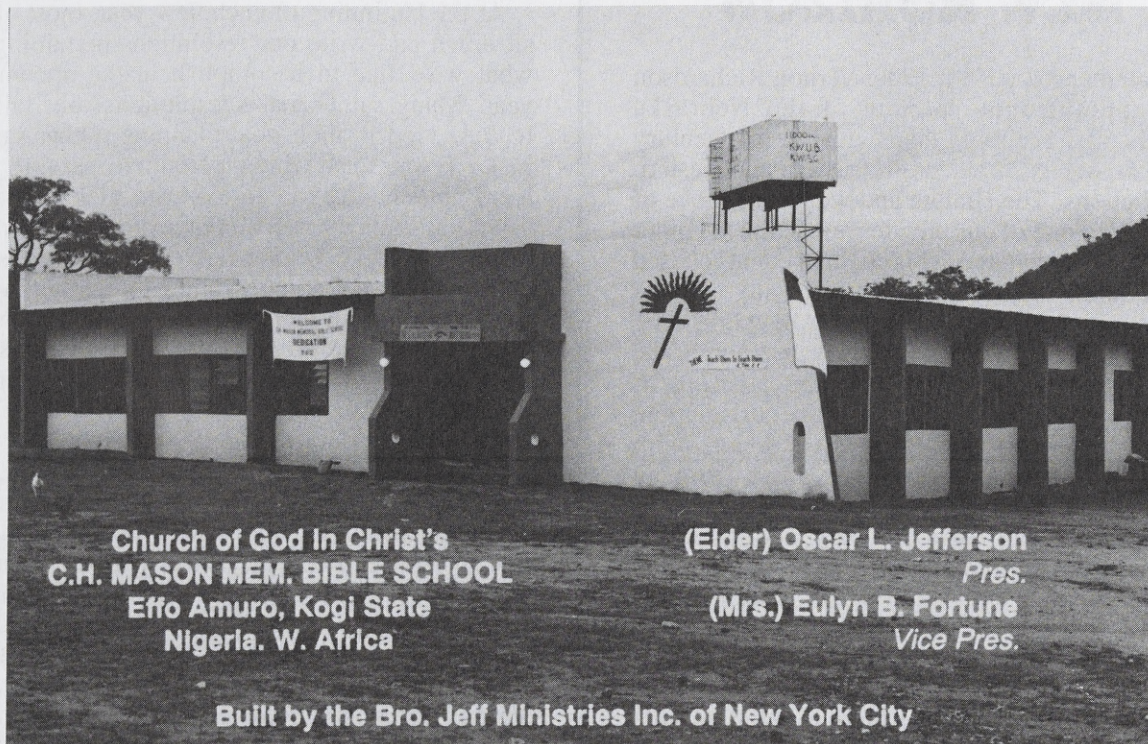
Thank you for the reflections about the theological underpinnings of the Rev. Shirley article. Allegory is something that we preachers struggle with as we deliver messages. The interpretation of how scripture is understood and taught is important and merits your comments. The Rev. Shirley has an opinion and likewise you have offered yours. My concern is that an open hearing of ideas exist and an interchange like this occurs. I am sure that others gave thought to the article but you were concerned enough to write a response. Thank you!

As you indicated, I would say to put the pen where the mouth is. We are preachers and thinkers and that kinship suggest a willingness to share. I hope the vital and great interchanges of ideas will be evidenced.

David Hall, D. Min.
Editor - The Whole Truth



MASON MEMORIAL BIBLE SCHOOL DEDICATED IN WEST AFRICA



Elder Oscar L. Jefferson, known as Bro. Jeff, director of the Bro. Jeff Ministries of New York City along with the Church Of God In Christ of Effo Amuro Kogi State and other neighboring Churches, dedicated a quarter million Niara Bible. (The Niara is as the dollar) a modern ten room school building measuring 60x60.

This building, completed and furnished, was dedicated to God in honor of the founder of the Church Of God In Christ, Bishop C.H. Mason on Saturday, October 10, 1992.

This inter-denominational Bible School stands as a beacon inviting young and old, men and women of all walks of life to come and study Gods word, preparing themselves for various ministries.

This dedication day will long be remembered by the hundreds of people that attended. This occasion also marked the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Church Of God In Christ in Nigeria by Bishop T.O. Amora, an African man

mightily used of God, though he is past 100 years old, was the principal speaker on that day, God used him.

The head instructor of our school is Elder D.A. Medubi. The theme of our Bible School is "Teach Them To Teach Them" from 2 Timothy 2:2. Pray for the School as we reach out for more teachers and students and plan to visit our school on your next trip to Africa. Nigeria is a convenient stop on your way to Europe, the Middle East, East Africa or the Holy Land.

Contact Elder S.A. Obajemu, Executive Secretary

C.H. Mason Memorial Bible School Centre
P.O. Box 150
Effo Amuro, Kogi State,
Nigeria, W. Africa

Bro. Jeff, President
Sis. Eulyn B. Fortune, Asst. President

PASTOR OF THE YEAR

We send greetings to the saints of God from Saints Memorial Church Of God In Christ. It was only seven years ago that our leader and pastor, Elder Julius Roper started our fellowship of believers. He had his devoted wife, two daughters and a nephew. The congregation had its humble beginnings in his home. He had no money but knew that God had given him a work to do. On October 12, 1985, he rented space at a local Holiday Inn and conducted services there. God began to bless in spite of people saying "he would never get out of the hotel."

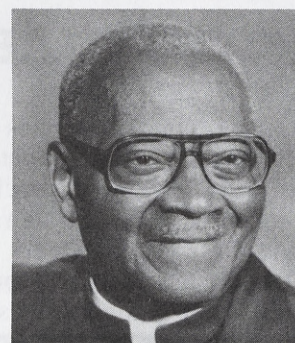
Elder Roper has served as assistant pastor, evangelist and now pastor. He was ready for the call to begin a new work. In Rogersville, Tennessee, he purchased a beautiful lot where the Community Chapel Church sits today. He has been faithful to his district responsibilities and to the Central Jurisdiction of Tennessee. Bishop W.L. Porter is the prelate serving in Central Jurisdiction.

After six years of trials and waiting patiently, the Lord blessed the saints to purchase a beautiful sanctuary with padded pews, fully carpeted floors and baptistry; all ready for worship. The saints are very happy and serving the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

This year our pastor was honored by his jurisdictional prelate as the "Pastor of the Year 1992." The honor could not have gone to a more dedicated man of God.

Submitted by Church Reporter
Saints Memorial COGIC

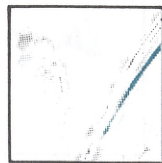
STREET RENAMED FOR LATE BISHOP



The Greater Holy Temple Church Of God In Christ celebrated the memory of its late founder and pastor, Bishop E. Lenox. On Saturday, October 10, 1992, the saints gathered with city officials and community representatives to change the name of California Avenue. California Avenue was renamed Bishop E. Lenox Drive, in honor of the late prelate and pastor. Greater Holy Temple is now served by Elder James E. Lenox, the son of the late bishop.

Bishop Lenox was the first assistant to Bishop William Roberts, an early pioneer with Bishop C.H. Mason. Bishop Lenox served as prelate of Southern Illinois Jurisdiction, founder of the Superannuation Fund, assistant chairman of concessions, pastor for sixty years and a loving husband and father. He went home to be with the Lord January 25, 1986.

The dedication and renaming of the street was conducted by Presiding Bishop L.H. Ford, Bishop John I. Cobb, Elder James Lenox and officials of the city of Chicago.



RAPINAN PROMOTED

Elder Leo Rapinan was appointed superintendent of the Mindoro Province in the Philippines. Bishop Avel B. Forto, presiding overseer of the Island nation made the appointment June 4, 1992. Elder Rapinan and his wife Marie are devoted missionaries for Christ. They reside in Seattle, Washington, however, travel and stay in the Philippines on a 59 day passport. They have American citizenship and by law may not remain in the Philippines more than 59 days at a time. Still, the Lord has blessed their labor.

At the recent Holy Convocation, Elder Rapinan expressed how the Lord is blessing their large orphanage, Bible School and ministry activities under his administration. He is embarking on the purchase of new land to expand the ministry in the Philippines. Elder Rapinan is familiar with ministry to a limited number and is utilizing materials and skills to the maximum. The work is hard and the distances they travel are difficult. He took on the task of ministry under the leadership of the late Bishop R.E. Alzheimer of Washington State and never looked back.

He encourages all who will direct contributions for his Philippine missions to the Department of Missions. Bishop C.L. Moody and the fine people of Missions shall see that your contributions will go directly to the Rapinan's ministry in the Philippines.

WESTERN NEW YORK REPORTS

Holy greetings to the saints of God everywhere in the precious name of Jesus Christ our Savior. The saints of the First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Western, New York to give God the praise for the God given leader that he has given to us. Our leader, Bishop LeRoy Robert Anderson is a proven leader for God's people.

During the month of August we celebrated our 72nd Annual Holy Convocation. It was Monday the 17th that Bishop Anderson led better than four hundred saints in the 12 o'clock noonday prayer. It was in this prayer that God revealed that he was going to greatly bless in this meeting. Our National presiding Bishop L.H. Ford was our opening night guest. Oh, how the Lord did pour out of His spirit upon each of us as Bishop Ford ministered to our souls. From then on it seemed as if we were floating on cloud nine. The general theme for the meeting was "The Portrait of a Saint."

Dr. J.C. Haynes of Hartford, Connecticut was in charge of the institute hour. What a teacher!! What an instructor!! We feasted daily from the teaching of this man of God.

Bishop Anderson is truly an anointed man of God who believes in the teachings of the Bible. Day and night, during this great meeting, the Bishop taught and exalted the saints of God to live, walk, talk, look and act like a "Bible Saint." Night after night the word of God was taught and preached. The jurisdiction preachers seemed to be anointed as never before.

Friday was Women's Day and our Jurisdictional Supervisor, Mother Helena Akins, was at her very best. Mother Akins is truly a woman of God and she is leading the Women's Department to a higher height and deeper depth in Christ.

One of the highlights of our meeting was Saturday night during our Educational Hour when our Bishop presented five scholarships to five worthy and deserving young people. Bishop Anderson gave a message on this night that can never be forgotten... "Salvation and Education." Bishop Anderson is a man who truly loves and is concerned about young people.

Pray for us here in Western New York as we continue to do God's will.

Humbly submitted;
Sister Betty Pierce Williams, Reporter

FOUNDERS DAY PROGRAM

A program was conducted for Elder Amos Henderson, Sr. June 20, 1992 at 8:00 p.m. at the Sweet Union COGIC. The Elder C. C. Crockett is pastor of the Forrest, Texas congregation. The children of Elder Henderson paid tribute and dedicated the day to their father. The Henderson children are Superintendent Amos Henderson, Jr., James Wade, Charles Henderson, Irvy J. Henderson, Commissioner Norman R. Henderson, Missionary E. Gibbons, Missionary Bulille Williams, Missionary Helen Bush, Sister Ruth Ware, Sister Shirley Banks and Carolyn Henderson.

They dedicated the following expression of their love to Elder Henderson.

God bless you Dad for 65 years of serving this grand Church Of God In Christ, forty two years as a pastor. He started from humble beginnings in Nacogdoches, Texas in 1909. There he lived and worked as a farmer in the early years, suffering hard times during the depression. He married the late Eula Mae (Horn) Henderson who struggled faithfully by his side. Both received the "Holy Ghost" in August of 1936 and became devout workers for the Lord.

While serving as a deacon, he was on a mission for Christ. He began to hold Bible classes weekly on Friday nights from house to house in the community of Redland, Texas. From this gathering 21 souls were saved. They built a brush arbor, then a tent was purchased, and finally a church was built. These achievements were accomplished during his tenure as a deacon. But then, God had a greater calling for him. He was called to the ministry in 1950 and he began a mission in Sweet Union (Forrest, Texas). There he built a building for worship.

Many souls were saved in this community while Elder Henderson served as pastor. He served from 1950 to 1984. The church is yet progressing under the leadership of Elder C. C. Crockett, who has since erected a brick building.

Other achievements of Elder Henderson are his long service as District Supervisor of the Nacogdoches District in Nacogdoches, Texas. Furthermore, he was the first black county commissioner of Texas, serving the second precinct of Nacogdochee County. His photo is mounted in the "Hall of Fame" in the county court house. In addition to that, he built his own home, he laid brick for the first time. Elder Henderson was blessed to go to the Holy Land, Israel and to other European countries, such as Italy, Greece, France and England.

Elder Amos Henderson continues to serve as pastor of the Grovinton COGIC. He has recently undergone surgery but at 82 years of age, God is continuing to bless him. With God's grace he will finish the race set before him.

The Henderson Children

GRACE CHAPEL HOSTS MRS. C. H. MASON

Dr. John Rollins of Los Angeles, California, and the Grace Chapel congregation will honor the late founder of the Church Of God In Christ, Bishop C. H. Mason, Sunday, February 21, 1993.

February is Black History Month and the congregation will lift up the contributions of Bishop Mason for the world to see. From the little Gin House in Lexington, Mississippi to an organization with thousands of local church congregations around the world, the Church Of God In Christ has made a tremendous contribution to religious and social life. The historical foundation of this movement is C. H. Mason. The theme of this day of celebration is "We are Working on the Building of A True Foundation," inspired from Psalms 127:1.

Special guest will be Mrs. Elsie Mason, widow of the late founder. The worship service will be conducted at 3:30 P.M. The saints of Grace Chapel will be in their monthly Shut-In Worship, Friday, February 19, 1993. Sister Jimmie Thompson wishes to invite all who can attend the Shut-In and the subsequent Black History Observation.

NEHEMIAH DECLARED!



Nehemiah declared, "So built we the wall...for the people had a mind to work" (Neh. 4:6)

Like this man of God, Dr. O.B. Pete, Sr., pastor of First Church Of God In Christ motivated the membership to construct and equip a beautiful new edifice on the main thoroughway of the little town of DeQuincy, Louisiana, costing over \$350,000 and retired the mortgage in three years.

Yes, God still works miracles!!

The old church was lovely, with two educational annexes, but it was evident that the membership had outgrown the facility and evangelistical outreach program could not be adequately meet the growing needs.

Therefore, some of the members approached the pastor with the idea of constructing a new facility.

*...we were blessed to retire
this mortgage in just three
years.*

This was the divine providence of God, because Pastor Pete had already begun talking with God about the same thing, obviously, this set the pastor's heart aglow.

It was not long after this that the pastor appointed a building committee to begin putting the pieces of this puzzle in their proper places.

Those appointed to the committee were Elder Oby Pete, Jr., chairman, Brothers Bill Silas, Clifton David, Daniel Marburgh and Sisters Catherine Pete, Delicia Marburgh and Margaret Brown.

The committee went to work immediately and got the entire membership aroused, started a building fund campaign, and began exchanging ideas on the type of building needed. With God as the chief architect, things went well!

On a surprisingly cold day, March 5, 1989, we held the ground-breaking ceremony for the new edifice. Superintendent Alfred Perry, Mrs. Alma Brown, Manager of Calcaieu Marine National Bank in DeQuincy, and Henry Thomas, Contractor, were the featured speakers.

Construction actually began in April. Five months later, in September, we celebrated the Pastor's Anniversary in the new church. The church was actually dedicated in October.

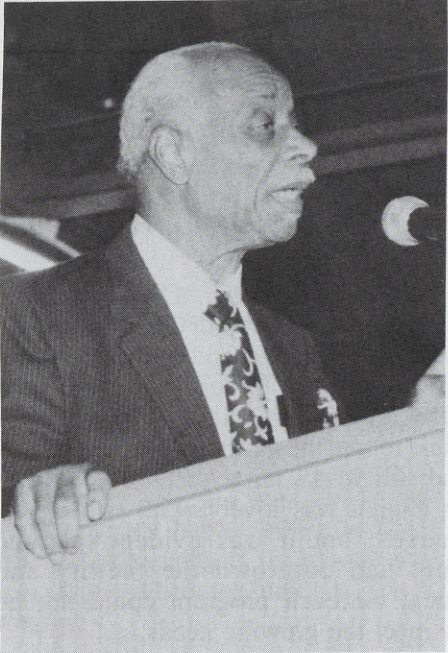
Total cost of construction and complete furnishing of the church exceeded \$350,000. The church had a final mortgage note for 15 years. With the help of God, the membership and the community, we were blessed to retire this mortgage in just three years.

We thank God for a great pastor as Elder Pete, Sr., a pastor with a vision, a motivator and one who leads by precepts and examples.

Our present membership of approximately 100 adults and 150 children and youth thank God for a pastor with a vision.

With the continued help of God, we shall endeavor to keep the flame of evangelism burning. Do continue to pray for us!

PICTURES OF A CHURCH ON THE MOVE



Bishop E. W. Rogers, a venerable sage addressed the Holy Convocation.



The Committee on Education was introduced to the Holy Convocation.

DEALING WITH THE ISSUES OF THE DAY



Committee Chairman, Bishop David Houston greets the saints and speaks of the challenge ahead.



The ever faithful ushers take a needed rest.



Presiding Bishop Ford is accompanied to the Homeless Shelter by Bishop W.L. Porter, General Board member, Bishop C.D. Owens and Dr. David Hall.



Elder Lewis of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands expressed his appreciation to the entire General Assembly for their support.

A Year of Promise

Continued from page 1

renew friendships and commitment in the largest gathering of Pentecostal Women in the world. Information about Red Cards and various activities will be forth coming. Ladies and gentlemen, please set your calendars for May 25-29, 1993.

The newly formed Evangelist and Mission Convention will meet in Baltimore, Maryland, June 7-12, 1993. This is the initial meeting of auxiliaries from the recently dismantled United National Auxiliaries Convention. Dr. E.L. Battles and Bishop C.L. Moody and staffs are preparing to develop another chapter in the history of the organization. The joint meeting will be uniquely structured to allow the devotees of each auxiliary to find his/her place, in a common setting. The sharing of facilities will increase the number of delegates and provide cheaper cost. Don't miss this historic session. Never before has there been so much ministry which needs to be done, and opportunities for persons available to work. Evangelism and mission are the life blood of Church growth and are interrelated.

The International Youth Congress will meet in the Windy City: Chicago, Illinois. This is the home of Presiding Bishop Ford and certainly, this meeting will be one of the grand events. Bishop Charles Brewer and staff will again tap into the reservoir of tradition to find the elements of both old and new which characterizes "Youth Congress," one of the oldest of auxiliary meetings. Again, youth from around the country will gather and be the central focus of one entire week of worship, programmatic activities and fun. In this world of extremes, the Church should present a stable and tested program to support youth. July 5-10, 1993, the Church Of God In Christ will again make its commitment to our youth. Supporting the congress is another way of expressing to our future leaders the organization is preparing them for whatever will come.

July 26-31, 1993, International Superintendent of Sunday School, Elder Jerry Macklin will ring the bell for the scholarly bible and ministry oriented persons of the Church. There is no school like the Sunday School and for years the auxiliary which boast the largest convention based Sunday School in America will meet without the late and great superintendent, Bishop C.W. Williams. Elder Macklin, a programmatic genius and builder of one truly progressive local Sunday School has an exciting package prepared for the saints. Atlanta, Georgia, "the city of the South" will host the convention. The correct title of the convention will be Sunday School and Music

Convention. The Music Department will join the Sunday School in Atlanta for a joint convention. Both of these conventions are training based organizations and the blend is a natural. Dr. Mattie Clark and the entire staff of musicians, directors and music industry professionals will gather to promote gospel through song. Local choirs from around the country should make their reservations now. Word about talent hours and other events which distinguish the music convention will again be accented. Atlanta is a city of excitement and this mid summer classic should be one the church worker will not want to miss.

Rounding out the summer's activity will be the Annual Founder's Week celebration in Lexington, Mississippi. Presiding Bishop Ford and the entire General Board of Bishops invites the saints to attend the dedication and reopening of Saints College.

May 25-29, 1993

The completed construction of the multi-purpose building is scheduled for this summer and the saints will look forward to sitting in the new air conditioned quarters. This promises to be the greatest celebration in history. The miracle on top of Holy Hill will be done and the entire week shall be devoted to praise of God and introducing the new faculty and staff to the Church Of God In Christ. September 7-10, 1993, is the scheduled time. If you desire to be a part of real significant history, then Lexington, Mississippi must be on your calendar.

Closing 1993 will be the annual fall revival, the International Holy Convocation will convene, November 9-16, 1993 in Memphis, Tennessee. What more be said about the convocation? This one convention, more than all other conventions defines the Church Of God In Christ. Yearly, 40-50,000 saints come to Memphis to give God the glory. It will be one more time when the saints can gather and experience what heaven must be like. Worship and praise, ministry development, seminars, musicals, etc promise to make the convention as lifting as usual. Expect an unique and wondrous time in this convention. The Presiding Bishop encourages the saints who attend the convocation to work through the improved housing system to secure lodging and information about the city.

Information about each convention shall periodical appear in The Whole Truth. The Various leadership teams are currently fine tuning their proposed efforts and pray the saints will plan vacations and commit time to participate in the auxiliaries and events of their choice.

Indiana — Project SPIRIT



While developing outreach ministry programs for the First Jurisdiction of Indiana, Bishop Milton Hall responded to an article in the September 1990 issue of The Whole Truth, regarding Congress of National Black Churches, Inc. Project SPIRIT. Because of this article, contact was made with Vanella Crawford, Project Director.

In December 1990, Bishop Hall personally sponsored the cost of a three-day training session at Grace Memorial Church Of God In Christ in Kokomo, Indiana, facilitated by Vanella Crawford. As a result, Bishop accepted the task of recruiting churches within the State of Indiana. Over 40 congregations were contacted and February 9-12, 1991, eleven church sites and 41 volunteer teachers were certified into the CNBC Project SPIRIT Program. Since March 1991, churches throughout Indiana have been rendering extended day programs (Project SPIRIT) - tutoring, life enhancement skills, and witnessing - within their community. The concept of Project SPIRIT would be a blessing to any community where it is alive and well in any COGIC outreach ministry.

The First Jurisdiction of Indiana has maintained and operated their Project SPIRIT sites only through the personal commitment of Bishop Hall, pastors and volunteers. Either Bishop Hall or the pastor of Project SPIRIT sites have personally paid for training sessions and curriculums from CNBC Project SPIRIT and are continuing to provide dollars, space, materials, countless hours and lots of energy and love to all operating programs in Indiana.

PROJECT MACEDONIA REACHES SECOND STAGE

The Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Kentucky is slowly growing and the credit in part goes to an innovative program initiated by Bishop Marcus J. Sykes. Project Macedonia is helping the State of Kentucky, one of the oldest regions associated with the pioneering of our early days. The Second Jurisdiction is uniquely blessed with the original spirit of the "Founding Parents," and is again showing the spirit of Bishop C.H. Mason. In spite of the fact that entire cities were hostile to the Pentecostal movement, and therefore the Church historically has not grown naturally.

Into this area the Lord sent Bishop Sykes with hope to minister. He has picked up the Pentecostal torch and has started a marathon race for Church development. He has placed young pastors in churches to demonstrate the pioneering spirit and willingness to endure adversity and the rigors of building from the ground. There are currently 11 churches geographically located in various parts of Kentucky at an average of 70 to 150 miles apart. These cities are heavily populated with Black Americans, the main constituency of the Church Of God In Christ. Cities such as

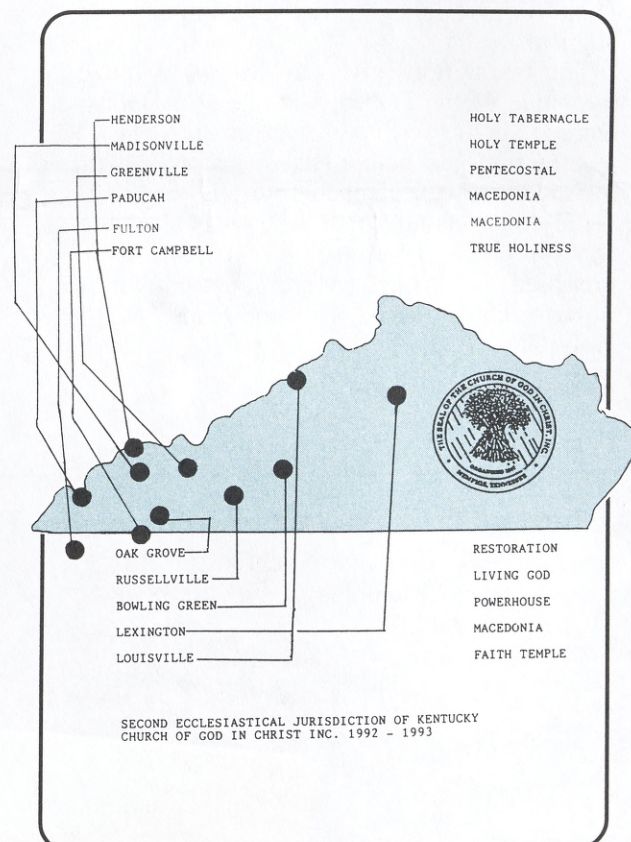
Covington, Frankfort, Paducah, Madisonville, Henderson, Russellville, Bowling Green, Greenville and other cities need to have a local COGIC congregation.

Project Macedonia has gone a long way in breaking up the fallow ground of Kentucky. Other Pentecostal groups are making strides in the region, but so to is the Church Of God In Christ. With the limited but dedicated means that Bishop Sykes has, he has developed some pioneering ministries. Macedonia has a developing army of the Lord. In 1993, Bishop Sykes has targeted five new congregations to be strategically located throughout the area of Kentucky. With this priority of five local congregations is the selection of progressive, qualified and godly men called to pastor. Bishop desires men and their families who are willing to relocate to Kentucky. The new pastors will be supported in the same manner others have. An agenda of tent crusades and revivals to initiate the opening of new areas shall continue as a main part of the Macedonia project. True fellowship can be a source of real comfort and everyone shares in worship under Macedonia's plan.

Bishop Sykes states, "Here is an opportunity for a man with pioneering spirit and a heart for ministry to develop. There are 9,066 minority persons per COGIC congregation." The Bishop may be contacted at:

Project Macedonia
c/o Bishop M.J. Sykes
P.O. Box 682
Union City, TN 38261

MAP



BAPTISM

AFTER we are saved, baptism is an outward sign to the world that we are buried with Jesus by baptism unto His death, Colossians 2:12, and risen to walk in the newness of life in Christ Jesus.

There are some denominations that strongly declare unless you have been baptized in "Jesus' Name" - these words spoken over you, that you have not been baptized properly. Some even contend that you are not saved. I definitely have no argument against being baptized in "Jesus Name." It was done by apostles in Acts 2:28 and Acts 10:48. I feel as long as we realize that Jesus has a Father, it is permissible. Still, the clearest and most understandable Bible Truth on baptism is described by Jesus himself. Truly he left no need for further interpretation.

But there was a time element and a strong purpose for the apostles mentioned above doing so. Many of the Jews of that day did not believe or acknowledge that Jesus was the Son of God. Being baptized in the name of Jesus was an acknowledgment and declaration that Jesus is the son of God.

Today some declare that saying Father, Son and Holy Ghost, is merely using titles. We each have titles; they are important. My mother's name was Betty, but I called her, mother. Every one who knew us, knew of whom I was speaking. They knew I was not speaking of myself. It is impossible for me to be my own mother. If using the title, Father, in baptism is in error, let's look at Jesus for our example. He used the title Father throughout the gospel of John, and in many Scriptures in the new testament. He used it in telling us how to baptize, I'm SURE He was not in error. At Jesus' baptism, God called Him his Son in whom He was well pleased.

The disciples asked the Lord to teach them to pray. Jesus began with: "...Our Father, which art in heaven...". He was not just using a title, per se. When he said Father, they knew of whom Jesus was speaking of.

A question may be asked here, If we are buried by baptism as a symbol of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, why not just use the name of Jesus alone? First of all, it was a commandment left by Jesus, Himself that we should baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Matthew 28:19. The TRINITY was involved in His death, burial and resurrection. 1st John 5:8 reads: "There are three that bear record in heaven: the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost: and these are one." They agree and do not function separately. They act in one accord with one mind.

Romans 8:11 reads: "But if the Spirit of Him that raised Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised Jesus from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His spirit that dwelleth in you." God, by the Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead. Thus, the Trinity was involved. Therefore, we involve the Trinity in our mode of baptism.

The instructions given by Jesus to baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost as recorded in the Scriptures were given AFTER His resurrection, just before His ascension. Had these instructions been given before His resurrection, some could contend that Jesus was speaking of the baptism of repentance of which John preached. In closing, we are Scripturally correct in baptizing in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Missionary Mary Lou Parker

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST FOUNDED IN IRVINGTON, NEW JERSEY



Strangers Home Church Of God In Christ was founded on October, 1990, by Elder Leroy Hodges, pastor. This is the first Church Of God In Christ in the history of Irvington. The Lord led Elder Hodges to Matthew 25:35 for the naming of this local church.

Leroy Hodges was born in Belzoni, Mississippi and currently resides in Irvington, New Jersey with his wife Elizabeth. He is the son of the late Willie Hodges and Mother Evelyn Harris.

Elder Hodges also founded a Christian Day Care Center at Strangers Home, which provides a safe harbor and Christian environment for our children while their parents are working. The Day Care Center has a computer facility with trained staff to teach the children. Computer training is also given to members to prepare them for future and better jobs.

In 1974, Elder Hodges was called of God to study and to prepare for the ministry and served under the First Assistant Presiding Bishop Chandler D. Owens of Wells Cathedral for 18 years.

He attended the Eastern Bible Institute in Irvington, New Jersey and completed the Pastoral Counseling Course in 1988. Elder Hodges was ordained an Elder into the Gospel Ministry in Newark, New Jersey in 1984, under Bishop Chandler D. Owens.

He attended the New Jersey Bible Institute in Newark, New Jersey in 1976 and received his GB1, GB2 and THB.

Elder Hodges is also well known for his humanitarian nature as well for his godly spirit throughout his community and the surrounding areas. Listed below is additional information detailing some of his accomplishments:

- Assistant to Congressman Donald Payne when he was Councilman in Newark's South Ward
- Honored by the NAACP in October 1992 for Outstanding Citizens for community involvement, leadership, concerns and the many contributions made
- Received Mayor's Award for Outstanding Civic Contributions to the community in 1992
- Received the Certificate of Outstanding Involvement in Education Award for dedicated service from the Clinton Avenue School in 1992
- Received the Black History Award for Distinguished Community Service from Clinton Avenue School in 1991
- Received the Mayor's Award for Outstanding Civic Contributions in 1991
- The First Black Ordained Irvington Township Police and Fireman Chaplain in 1990
- President of the Clinton Avenue Merchants Association (1983 to present)
- Elder Hodges started the first Black True Value Hardware in New Jersey in 1987, known as Hodges True Value Hardware
- Awarded the Sharpe James Civic Award for Outstanding Services to the community in 1987
- Awarded the Board of Trustees United Community Corporation Award for Appreciation for Devotion, Sensitivity and Dedication to the Newark community in 1983
- Co-founder of the Newark Coalition of Small Business Association in 1981 and currently holds the position of Vice President
- Founder of Hodges Glass & Mirror Corp. in 1979

Sis. Annie Brown
Church Secretary

A Tribute



A tribute to Mother Irene Brown of Kelly Temple COGIC, mother of Pauline Brown of New York City and Geraldine Cooke of Memphis, who passed away from her loved ones in 1992.

She was a noble mother,
Loved by all she knew
Everyone she tried to help
And smiled the whole day through.

She served and loved her Master
And tried His will to do;
was always helping others
A life so noble, kind and true.

We shall miss her bright smile
And all her loving ways,
But we'll try to live for Jesus,
And meet her at the end of our days.

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85TH HOLY CONVOCATION NOVEMBER 1992

- Monday - NightOpening Musical
- Tuesday - DayOpening Day
Bishop L. H. Ford
- NightElder Murphy Pace
Bishop E.W. Rogers
Elder Derrick Hutchins
- Wednesday - DayMinister's Seminar I
Elder William Scott
- NightElders Brown & Edwards
Elder Robert Sanders
- Thursday - DayBishop Earl Gordon
- NightElder James Gaylord
Elder C.H. Douglass
- Friday - DayMinister's Seminar II
Women's Day - Day
- NightWomen's Day - Night
- Saturday - DayMinister's Seminar III
Sunshine/Purity
- NightAflame Hour
Elder Ron Gibson
Bishop Vernon Richardson
- Sunday - DayFounder's Day
Bishop L. H. Ford
- NightBishop F.D. Lawson
- Monday - DayBishop Woolard & Elder Pass

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